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ARE 4-H CLUB MEMBERS PREPARED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY ON NEW AGRICULTURAL FRONTIERS FOR BETTER LAND USE AND HAPPIER COUNTRY HOMES?\*

By  
Mrs. Ola Powell Malcolm  
Field Agent, Southern Section

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Permit me first to commend the earlier speakers on this program and all the other more than a million 4-H club members who have been carrying on such practical and profitable demonstrations.

Winona and Walter have already answered in a splendid manner the question used as topic for my talk. No better description of the progress and development 4-H club members are making toward this goal could be given than these stories of their own progressive demonstrations, Walter beginning with a beef calf and Winona with poultry.

Productive, profitable demonstrations conducted on the farm and in the homes of 4-H club members are proof of the success of the demonstration plan for improving conditions, readjusting agriculture, and building useful, happy lives. Results of farm and home demonstrations observed by members of the family, neighbors, and visitors on achievement days, cause the desire for similar improvements to develop in others, just as Winona has explained. So spreads the influence of the demonstrations of better farming and home-making.

Bankers, ministers, lawyers, business men and women, editors, law-makers, and others who are everywhere writing and speaking their approval of 4-H club work, have aided much in the spread of the influence of the demonstration idea throughout this country and even into foreign lands.

Last year over 50 percent of the Nation's increase in 4-H club enrollment was in the South. This increase was due, we believe, to the desire on the part of farm boys and girls to undertake demonstrations of magnitude that offer opportunity for profitable gain, by which to start a "go-to-college" fund; or to assume a greater responsibility in farm enterprises that are commensurate with their ability and offer greater opportunity to become self-sustaining and independent. Since the South has nearly half the farm population of the entire United States and receives only about one-fourth of the Nation's farm cash income, the demonstration plan of helping farm families to become self-sustaining, is important. The older farm youths today are realizing that future hope for success of agriculture as an industry rests upon national planning, which provides protection of resources: Water, minerals, and other elements so essential for continuation of life on the land. They are recognizing that soil and its fertility is our most valuable

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possession, fundamental source of wealth, and basis of prosperity. They observe that folks are no richer than the land on which they live.

The potential agricultural leaders and statesmen of the future are those progressive 4-H club members who now keenly appreciate the value of soil conservation, plant food, and flood control in a national agricultural program. They will be the ones prepared to assume important responsibility for better land use on new agricultural frontiers.

Some of our 4-H club members, as agricultural statesmen, will be prepared to participate in world peace conferences, where perhaps agreements will be made among nations with regard to necessary plant foods to conserve and maintain good soil on the earth and prevent the famines, which are often caused by floods and decadence of land. The well-being of generations to follow will be jeopardized unless 4-H club members and others learn to check erosion; to rebuild the soil; conserve and maintain its fertility; to know crops best suited to the land and the value of fertilizer and its use; they must know the source of plant foods, which in turn become animal foods and which are absolutely essential to human life. Deficiency diseases of plants and abnormalities in growth and development; under-sized animals and humans, occur in some regions because of mineral deficiencies in their food, or because of an inadequate supply of food. Such information is included in the study and work of conducting a farm-home pantry demonstration or a family food-supply demonstration.

With wasting land, with increased concentration on single cash crops, goes the attendant evil of under-balanced and inadequate nutrition and health hazards. Increasing the farm privilege income is just as important as increasing the cash income, if standards of living in our rural areas are to be improved.

In the uniting of all adjustment programs affecting farming and home-making the farm youths in their demonstrations, today are striving for that breadth of vision which permits understanding of the larger county-wide, State, regional, and National programs.

The farm home is the unit of culture, social and economic life. The unified program in the farm and home demonstration, working with the farm family as a unit, is helping more demonstrators to understand and use a correlated plan. Through the Extension Service organization many agencies have united all efforts and integrated their purpose. Such a coordination of effort has contributed much to a better understanding of the one great objective to increase the value of life and its living for this and following generations.

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